

Dave Orrick, *Pioneer Press*

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi came to town Saturday and said there was "more to come" in federal funds to resurrect the historic St. Paul Union Depot as a mass transit hub.

With an estimated price tag hovering around \$240 million and just over \$130 million committed, the remark by the powerful California Democrat was greeted with applause from a host of local officials on hand.

Pelosi repeated the phrase after it was uttered by U.S Rep. Jim Oberstar, the Minnesota Democrat who chairs the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and has secured federal funds in the past for the project.

Pelosi didn't talk specifics about funding, and her visit - officially to take a first-hand tour of the Lowertown buildings - was as much political as it was fact-finding. She, Oberstar and fellow Democrats U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum and Keith Ellison, as well as Ramsey County commissioners and local labor leaders, traded compliments publicly. Afterward, they posed for side-by-side photos with the most powerful woman in the country.

Outside the restricted-access event, Republican challengers held their own event.

Chip Cravaack, who is challenging Oberstar this fall in 8th District, Joel Demos, who is challenging Ellison in the 5th, and Teresa Collett, who is challenging McCollum in the 4th, criticized their opponents' fiscal policies as irresponsible. The National Republican Congressional Committee similarly criticized Pelosi.